National Aeronautics and Space Administration

countdown

July 31, 2007 Vol. 12, No. 55

Endeavour launch preparations under way for Aug. 7 liftoff

◆ **Shuttle Update:** At Launch Pad 39A, preparations continue for the launch of Endeavour on STS-118. The hypergolic propellants have been loaded into the solid rocket booster hydraulic power units and Endeavour's orbital maneuvering system, forward reaction control system and the auxiliary power units. Technicians have stowed the extravehicular mobility units (spacesuits) in the orbiter and are performing functional checkout of the suits. Workers are also loading flight crew equipment and supplies into the crew cabin. Closeout of the orbiter aft is under way. The payload bay doors were opened Friday to allow for payload closeouts, including camera tests on the shuttle robotic arm and the extension, known as the orbiter boom sensor system.

The mission crew will arrive 5 p.m. Thursday to prepare for the launch at 7:02 p.m. Aug. 7.

◆ **ELV Update:** In preparation for the launch of the Phoenix spacecraft, the Delta II second stage is being loaded with its complement of storable propellants today. The mobile service tower, or gantry, is scheduled to be retracted from around the Delta II at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday for launch the next morning. Launch times for the Phoenix Mars Lander are 5:35 a.m. or 6:11 a.m. Friday.

■ **NASA News —** A new lightning protection system will be built for Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center. The system will support launches of the Constellation Program's Ares I rockets. The lightning protection system is designed to reduce the probability of a direct lightning strike to the Ares I and associated launch equipment during processing and other activities prior to flight. Under the contract, the local company – Ivey's Construction – will provide all labor and materials to fabricate and construct three 600-foot, self-supporting structural steel towers and an overhead wire system with associated conductors (*see artist's drawing below*). The system is expected to be complete by March 2010.

■ **NASA on Network TV —** The Discovery Channel will air the "Dirty Jobs" episode filmed at KSC at 9 p.m. Aug. 7. The title of the episode will either be "The Space Crawler" or "The Bridge Painter," as both will be covered in the same episode.

■ **Road Update —** The Indian River Bridge will be reduced to one lane of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday for modifications.

■ **Stamp Machines Canceled —** The U.S. Postal Service will be removing all stamp vending machines due to the cost of service and repair. Therefore, the machines located in the MFF and SSPF lobbies will be removed from service **today**. Postal services and stamp sales are available to KSC employees at the KSC Post Office in the Headquarters Building (M6-399), Room 1538, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information, contact the KSC Post Office at 867-3752.

■ **C++ Programming Class Coming to KSC area —** Webster University will offer a nine-week C++ graduate level programming class in the KSC area starting Aug. 13. Classes will meet one night a week in a format designed for working professionals. Credits are transferable toward the M.S. in Computer Science degree. For more information, contact Michelle Loufek at 449-4506 or e-mail her at *spacecoast@webster.edu*.

■ KSC Library Archives Photo Display for July-August — The KSC Library Archives features the 45th anniversary of Kennedy Space Center in a photo exhibit of early construction, as well as progressive construction. The display case is located between Headquarters Building rooms 1533 and 1537, across from the post office. Further information may be obtained by calling the KSC Library Archives at 867-2407.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to *anita.barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov*. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.